

REMARKS

Claims 11-29 and 31-37 remain in this application. Claims 10 and 30 have been cancelled without prejudice. Claims 11, 15, 31, and 32 have been amended. The amendments are supported by the specification and no new matter has been added. The Applicants respectfully request reconsideration of this application in view of the above amendments.

Allowable Subject Matter

As an initial matter, the Applicants would like to thank the Examiner for his careful search and for the finding of allowable subject matter. The Examiner has allowed claims 20-29 and 33-37. These claims remain unchanged in the application.

The Examiner has also indicated that claims 11-19, 31, and 32 would be allowable if rewritten in independent form including all of the limitations of the base claim and any intervening claims. Claim 11 has been amended to incorporate all of the limitations of base claim 10. Claim 15 has been amended to make it depend on claim 11. With this amendment, each of claims 12-19 depend from base claim 11. Claim 15-17 have also been amended to increment the arbitrary identifiers to avoid potential confusion with the identifiers used in claim 11. Claims 31 and 32 have been amended to each incorporate all of the limitations of base claim 30. The amendments of the claims are supported by the specification and no new matter has been added.

35 U.S.C. §102 Rejection - Fischer

The Examiner has rejected claims 10 and 30 under 35 U.S.C. §102(b) as being anticipated by U.S. Patent No. 6,470,370 issued to Fischer et al. These claims have been cancelled without prejudice.

Conclusion

In view of the foregoing, it is believed that all claims now pending patentably define the subject invention over the prior art of record and are in condition for allowance. Applicants respectfully request that the rejections be withdrawn and the claims be allowed at the earliest possible date.

Request For Telephone Interview

The Examiner is invited to call Brent E. Vecchia at (303) 740-1980 if there remains any issue with allowance of the case.

Request For An Extension Of Time

The Applicants respectfully petition for an extension of time to respond to the outstanding Office Action pursuant to 37 C.F.R. § 1.136(a) should one be necessary. Please charge our Deposit Account No. 02-2666 to cover the necessary fee under 37 C.F.R. § 1.17 for such an extension.

Charge Our Deposit Account

Please charge any shortage to our Deposit Account No. 02-2666.

Respectfully submitted,
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